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RED RIVER COLLEGE'S NEWSPAPER
THE PROJECTOR
March 17, 2003

To break or not to break? That is the question

A ride on the bureaucratic crazy train

By Nicola Dempsey and Sean Kavanagh

The switch to a semester system has been a topic discussed in the halls of both campuses for some time now. In early February, a notice was posted asking first-year Creative Communications and Graphic Arts students to attend a meeting regarding a proposed change from the current trimester system to a semester system. This would mirror systems standard in most Canadian post-secondary institutions. This change is planned to take effect for the entire college in 2004.

Approximately 70 students from both programs attended the meeting, chaired by Bob McGregor, chair of Creative Arts.

According to McGregor, a "window of opportunity" has opened, making a change to a semester system possible for the next academic year. McGregor says curriculum and scheduling have been almost entirely planned out, but that administration wanted to hear student opinion before going ahead.

The meeting left more than a few students puzzled. What did the change mean? What would the schedule look like? What about the 17-week term that ran from January to May without a break? Discussions between students and McGregor became spirited.

Ruth Shead, a first-year Creative Communications student, wanted to know how the options and work placements would fit into the new semester system. Many students felt the answers given were unclear.

McGregor said a proposed schedule would be produced. McGregor urged students to lobby the Students' Association to speak on their behalf to the Senior Academic Committee (SAC) about the long stretch without a break in the second term.

"We (Creative Arts administration) made a case to the SAC that a break was a good thing for the students," McGregor said. "I really believe that the Students' Association is the best place to discuss the week break as a means to student's success."

McGregor informed students that a decision regarding moving to the new system had to be made quickly to accommodate a host of planning and operational matters.

This did not sit well with some students attending the meeting. Many wondered how they could offer any opinion for or against the proposal without knowing the nature of the changes that may be occurring.

A vote was on the horizon.

A fierce week of consultations and debate ran through the programs. The prospect of a four-month term in an already chaotic program, with no break whatsoever didn't seem so appealing, especially for rural students who rarely have time to return home to visit their families, even with the trimester breaks.

Still, the consensus for the change seemed strong. The chance to follow the same academic year as the rest of the country appealed on a competitive level and a practical one.

"Get us on the same schedule as our university friends so we can compete (for jobs) at the same time," said Jenny Henkleman, a first-year Creative Communications student.

"Get us on the same schedule as our university friends so we can compete for jobs at the same time."
- Creative Communications student Jenny Henkleman

A lobbying effort resulted in a postponement of the vote. However, no indication was given of whether a break would be included. McGregor encouraged students to lobby the SAC directly.

"If you are confident in your lobbying ability, you might want to vote for the semester system when going to the SAC," he said.

A number of students focused their efforts on the SAC, attempting to seek clarity on the committee's position on the issue.

A final request was made to Jacqie Thachuk, president of RRC. In her e-mail response, Thachuk said, "Please keep your program and your studies as your highest priority. I believe that word of your concern has reached the SAC and they are the proper forum to hear your concerns... I hope this e-mail can serve to assure you that there is no need to feel urgency or pressure to get your positions heard by the SAC."

With reaction of the students noted and logged, it remains for the SAC to settle the issue once and for all.

No decision has been announced.

photo by Lynsay Perkins

Student timetables may be changing next year from the current trimester system, to a semester system much like other post-secondary institutions.

Where everybody knows your name

Summer renovations at Notre Dame campus scheduled to include permanent bar in south gym

By Jeanne Fronda

While the Red River College Students' Association staff members think that building a permanent bar will be positive for the college, some students believe it will be a waste of money.

The south gym renovations, which are scheduled for the summer of 2003, will add a new wing that will house the bar. It's one of several proposed changes that are part of the Student Street concept, which includes locating student services along one common hallway. Funding for the gym renovations will be taken from the RRC Students' Association Fund, which currently sits at $1,625,275.

"The only need for a bar is for something to do between classes."
- Nursing student Laura Sommerville

RRC Students' Association president David Lyman explains that the bar wouldn't be open on a daily basis, but would only be used for school functions. He says that the SA would also offer the bar for alumni use.

RRCSA Vice-President Lars Vik says building a permanent bar will be more convenient.

"It would make more sense to have a permanent bar. It's a pain to go back and forth," says Vik regarding how currently a temporary bar must be set up and taken down for school functions such as socials.

Vik adds that supporting the addition of the bar doesn't mean the SA is supporting drinking, but rather that the SA is aiding school spirit by supporting school events that may include serving alcohol.

"I think it's important we have events. We don't really have anything to build school spirit," adds Lyman.

Recreation Services Manger Shane Wood says he doesn't think building a permanent bar would affect the gym services provided to students.

Wood explains that the new wing won't affect students' access to the south gym's running track because the wing will be built in the gym's the main area, which is on a different floor than the track.

"It's less work if they build a permanent bar because they don't have to set up and take down a temporary one," says Wood. "It would make it easier for everyone."

continued on page 2

South gym bar- continued from page 1

"Some students just like to have a drink," adds Wood.

Nursing student Krista Babinsky doesn't agree.

"Not everyone needs to be drinking– I think it's not a priority," she says.

"I think it's a waste of money. Why don't they take that million dollars and cut our tuition?"

Laura Somerville, a Nursing student, agrees. "It's a terrible idea," she says.

"The only need for a bar is for something to do between classes. If the bar was open year round it would be cool."

"If you're going to put it there make use of it," Babinsky says. "It should be open at least once a week every Friday."

Nursing student Patrick Coughlan agrees with the idea of having the bar open year round on campus.

"It would be something you can call your own. It would bring up morale."

Exams classified information?

Students encouraged to learn their rights

By Joff Schmidt

So you've finished your exams and checked your grades. Not what you expected? Well, nothing you can do about that, right? Once an exam is written, doesn't it just vanish into the academic ether?

Not quite, according to college administration and the Students' Association.

The college's policy, as outlined in the Red River College students' handbook (and on the college's Web site), states that "Upon request, students may view major term examinations or final examination papers which have not been returned to them."

"Students do have a right to see their paper," confirms Pay Bozyk, the college's Dean of Student Services. Final examination papers are required to be kept on file for a minimum of one month to allow students time to see the paper and file an appeal if necessary.

However, this policy hasn't always been strictly followed, according to Students' Association executive director Owen Desnoyers. "From time to time, certain instructors have declined to show the students the exam," he said. "I'd be very frustrated if I was student and I wasn't allowed to see my exam."

Such an incident reportedly occurred just before the December exam period, says Schubert Beaubrun, the Student Association's vice-president of Student Affairs. According to Beaubrun, a group of students raised their concerns with him at a November meeting of college class representatives. The students claimed that a week before their final exam, they still had not been allowed to view the results of their midterm exams.

"They needed to know how they were doing going into the final," Beaubrun says. In some cases, he says, "students are not getting things in a timely fashion."

Although the college does not have any specific regulations on how long before an exam term marks must be made available to students, Bozyk notes that "all assignments are supposed to be marked in a timely fashion."

Beaubrun could not comment on what came of the students' concerns - the students did not file a formal complaint, and did not follow up with Beaubrun regarding the issue.

When concerns over grades or other difficulties with instructors arise, Beaubrun stresses the importance of going through proper channels, such as the Students' Association. "Unless students make things formal, they lose their interest and they get frustrated," he says. "That's why they use us as an advocate."

He adds that if a student is denied access to an exam, they should speak first to their program co-ordinator. He notes that "there doesn't seem to be consistency" from one program to another regarding policies on viewing exams, pointing to one program which allows students to take their graded exams home for review. Most programs will only allow students to view their exams in an instructor's office.

Beaubrun says that in situations where students still have concerns regarding academic policies or final grades, the Students' Association can play an important role as a source of student advocacy, and can give students a way to have their concerns expressed to an instructor without fear of reprisal. "I don't bring up the name of the student," when bringing concerns to the attention of instructors, Beaubrun says. "We just ask questions."

While Beaubrun says the case of the students who were unable to see their exam results was an isolated incident, he notes that grade appeals are "not out of the ordinary. It's part of what we do."

In any situation where a student has a conflict with an instructor, he highlights the need to be aware of college policy. "The big thing is to get students to know their rights."

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If you have an opinion about something you've read in The Projector, or would like to address an issue concerning Red River College, please write to us.

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Coca-Cola college proves the gods aren't crazy

By Ruth Shead

Coca-Cola has hundreds of brands around the world - Five Alive, Dasani, Fanta, Hi-C, your education at Red River College...

Well, that last one is debatable, but if you've ever found yourself in front of a vending machine at one of the college's campus, in one of the cafeterias, or at the Ox, the gods aren't crazy. There's a reason why you can't find Pepsi products, or any product that doesn't come from Coca-Cola, for that matter.

In 1997, RRC and the Students' Association, along with Coca-Cola and Pepsi, signed an exclusivity contract to sell only Coca-Cola at the Ox, food services and in the campus vending machines. Luckily Coca-Cola isn't just Coca-Cola, and our choices aren't limited to a single taste. But what does it all mean?

Owen Desnoyers, SA executive director, says in return for keeping beverages sold at RRC restricted to Coca-Cola products, the college receives an annual fee from Coca-Cola as well as a percentage of the revenue, marketing dollars to promote Coca-Cola sales, and prizes for events like Meltdown Week. "That we sell only Coke products is the concession we make," says Desnoyers.

Does this make us Coke students? Well, probably not, but for students concerned about how having only a single choice for a cold beverage between classes might influence their life, well, that's part of the motivation behind exclusivity contracts - to develop your habits while you are young and to have them carry over into your life off-campus. If you become accustomed to drinking Coca-Cola products and enjoying them while at school, there's a better chance that you will continue to do so elsewhere.

Regarding the branding of education, Desnoyers says, "RRC has never really had that attitude or concern. The buck and a half you put in the machine, some of it is coming right back into students hands."

Desnoyers describes RRC's 10-year agreement with Coca-Cola as a bit of a windfall, explaining that Coke dollars have kept student fees down and have allowed a scholarship fund to quickly develop. "In only three to four years an endowment fund of over $200,000 has been established and it can last for decades if it's properly managed." The first of these scholarships will be given this year.

Well that's good news. "Drink Coca-Cola" and remember: life tastes good.

photo by Lynsay Perkins

Digital Multi-Media Technology student Denise Douglas enjoys a cold one at RRC.

Visions of 1984

By Andrew Wiens

The Notre Dame campus has just gotten a little safer. Four additional security cameras have recently been installed, and according to Red River College security manager Jim Drever, this is part of ongoing security expansion at the college.

"(The cameras) are strictly to keep the environment safe and secure as we possibly can," says Drever. He says the main function of the security cameras is to act as a deterrent.

Drever says he's seen the camera's success in curbing incidents of vandalism and even auto theft. The four cameras, which cost about $5500, are considered to be but a small portion of the budget. They're located in Building E on the plaza level and level 2.

Just the mention of cameras on campus can bring visions of George Orwell's 1984 to your head. But Students' Association Vice-President Schubert Beaubrun sees the cameras as a positive addition. "We're in support of any tightened security as long as we know of it - and as long as it's not in the bathrooms," he says.

And no, the cameras are not in the bathrooms. In fact, they are all in public areas, not in any private rooms such as change rooms, showers or even classrooms. Drever insists the cameras are not meant to be an invasion of privacy. "It's not the intent to keep them secret," Drever says.

He points out that each entrance to the Notre Dame parking lot is equipped with a sign notifying people of the presence of cameras, and as soon as the weather gets warmer security will be placing signs on doors into all buildings with cameras.

Drever feels the support from administration has made it easier for his department to operate and maintain safe facilities. He sees the additional cameras as part of a proactive approach to safety which includes services like Safe Walk.

"If you have a nice safe environment, it's easier to keep it that way than to bring it back if it slides," he says.

Everything I Need to Know I Learned From Coca-Cola

Compiled by Ruth Shead and Joff Schmidt

Slogans from Coca-Cola's history, as it turns out, have many applicable lessons for college students. Here are a few favourites:

-Sick? Remember, Coca-Cola is "Deliciously refreshing. For headache and exhaustion, drink Coca-Cola (1900)." Also, "Coca-Cola is a delightful, palatable, healthful beverage (1904)." Don't need a doctor's note.

-Up late studying? "Coca-Cola revives and sustains (1905)." No need for those pep pills now.

-Chix diggit! Coke is "The favorite drink for ladies when thirsty, weary, and despondent (1905)." Drink up, ladies.

-Having trouble with those multiple choice tests? "Coca-Cola is a perfect answer (1919)." Remember, the answer is always "C," as in "Coke!"

-Trying to hook up with that special someone? Just say, "Meet me at the soda fountain (1930)." You're in for some lovin'..

-Lost in the woods? Remember, "All trails lead to ice-cold Coca-Cola (1935)." Better than a compass.

-Public transit getting you down? Coca-Cola "Makes travel more pleasant (1939)." Almost as good as a seat behind the bus driver.

-Finally, a use for your student planner - Coca-Cola is "A stop that belongs on your daily timetable 1941)." Drop a class if you have to.

-Having trouble at the border? Coca-Cola is a "Passport to refreshment (1945)." And that's just as good as a stamp.

-Stuck for Christmas gift ideas? Coca-Cola is "The gift of thirst (1952)." Gee, thanks honey.

-It's the breakfast of champions! Have a Coca-Cola and "Make it a real meal (1959)." Cereal is so 1958.

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March 17 – May 26

4:15pm – 5:15pm, North Gym

Instructor: Eleanor Tsang

Join Eleanor for an invigorating 45 minute workout! The majority of the class is cardio based with some muscle conditioning at the end of the class.

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To Register: You can pay by cheque or cash at the North Gym Equipment counter. Payments can also be made at the cashiers office, located in room C212, between 8:00am and 3:30pm. Methods of payment at the cashiers office include: Interac/ Visa or Master Card/ Cheque/ Cash. Credit card payments may also be phoned in to the Controller's Office at 632-2371.

RED RIVER COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

STUDENTS ARE OUR BUSINESS

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Elections 2003

Well students, the time has come for you to vote for your next Students' Association executives. On **April 14 and 15**, with **advance polling on April 9**, you'll get the chance to exercise your right to vote. It is indeed a privilege for you to decide on who will continue to lead your student concerns and request for the upcoming year. Your candidates will have to take on issues such as:

- **Keeping the freeze on tuition and college fees**
- **Fighting for quality programming and course instruction across the board**
- **Advocating on your behalf on academic issues and student rights**
- **Keeping you updated on all SA and College activities and services**
- **Making your college experience absolutely the best ever by any legitimate means**

So there you have it! It's your move! Put on your thinking caps and give those candidates a challenge. Watch for time and dates of debates and opening and closing speeches soon to come. Don't forget your student card on voting days to be eligible to vote.

IMPORTANT DATES TO ADD TO YOUR DAY PLANNERS

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CASA appoints new national director

Former ND steps down amid allegations of tampering

By Scott Prouse

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has appointed a new national director, former vice-president of the University of Manitoba's Students' Union James Kusie, to replace Liam Arbuckle, who submitted his resignation following allegations of tampering with CASA's national director selection process.

Kusie beat out four other candidates with a majority. He's been involved with CASA for two years and was chair of CASA's board of directors before stepping down to run in the national director election race.

He takes office May 1 in Ottawa.

"CASA has an enormous potential to grow and there are many opportunities for us to put education at the forefront of a national debate," he said after the March 5 announcement in Winnipeg.

"The members who are here right now are working as a team and making a concerted effort to bring forth positive and strengthen the organization."

Arbuckle resigned after it was learned CASA's board received word that "information had been disclosed" to Joshua Morgan, one of the candidates in the ND election race.

"(He) called me to offer congratulations on being short-listed and then revealed information to me," Morgan said. "But I was not aware this was confidential information until the board contacted me last week."

Morgan was exonerated of any wrong-doing and remained a candidate in the election process.

Red River College Students' Association President David Lyman said he's happy with CASA's selection, and downplays the significance of Arbuckle's tampering, especially after the Kusie victory.

Lyman, who is also on CASA's board of directors, said Arbuckle's gaffe hardly calls CASA's leadership into question. He said it's not even a case of what Arbuckle said, but rather that he said it at all.

"I can't really say anything more because then I'm just like Mr. Arbuckle," he added, referring to the former national director's decision to discuss in camera discussions with national director candidates.

"It could happen anywhere," Lyman said, adding that Arbuckle knew and had personal relationships with three of the five candidates in the selection process.

"It makes it tough when you're friends."

Lyman stressed the importance of RRCSA being a member of CASA.

"When you belong to CASA, you do everything in the interest of national education," he said.

CASA is a federal student lobby organization consisting of 21 student governments representing students nationwide. The CASA organization has been a strong supporter of the national tuition freeze.

The Chair of CASA's Board of Directors, Terry MacLeod, also dismissed Arbuckle's infraction.

"The information was not determined to be of material assistance to the candidate and that the disclosure has not compromised the integrity of the national director selection process," he said before the election.

"We have resolved the situation and will be moving forward to focus on issues of more direct concern to students."

New SA reps guaranteed for next year

By Ruth Shead

Defying local election trends started by city councillors last October, when 13 out of 15 incumbents sought reelection and swept the polls, Schubert Beaubrun, vice president of student affairs, says "No current Students' Association executives are returning. Next year will be all fresh faces."

While communist, monarchist, and Fascist governments wouldn't offer a choice, Red River College and its preference for good old fashioned democracy is asking students to participate in replacing the folks who have been serving them for the past year.

Since March 5, nominations for RRCSA executive office positions have been underway. Students interested in running for president, vice president of student affairs or vice president of finance and support services have until March 27 to submit their completed nominations.

Nomination packages can be picked up at the SA office, DM20, Building D at Mall level. Requirements for nomination include: 50 signatures from RRC students supporting the nomination, a $10 election bond fee and a copy of the nominee's transcript.

As of March 11, no nominations had been received, but Beaubrun says a few people have shown interest and have picked up packages. Once all nominations have been approved, the current SA will meet with the candidates, who will be allowed to campaign from March 31 through April 11, which is a good time to pay attention if you aren't interested in running, but are interested in voting because democracy can be a beautiful thing when people participate.

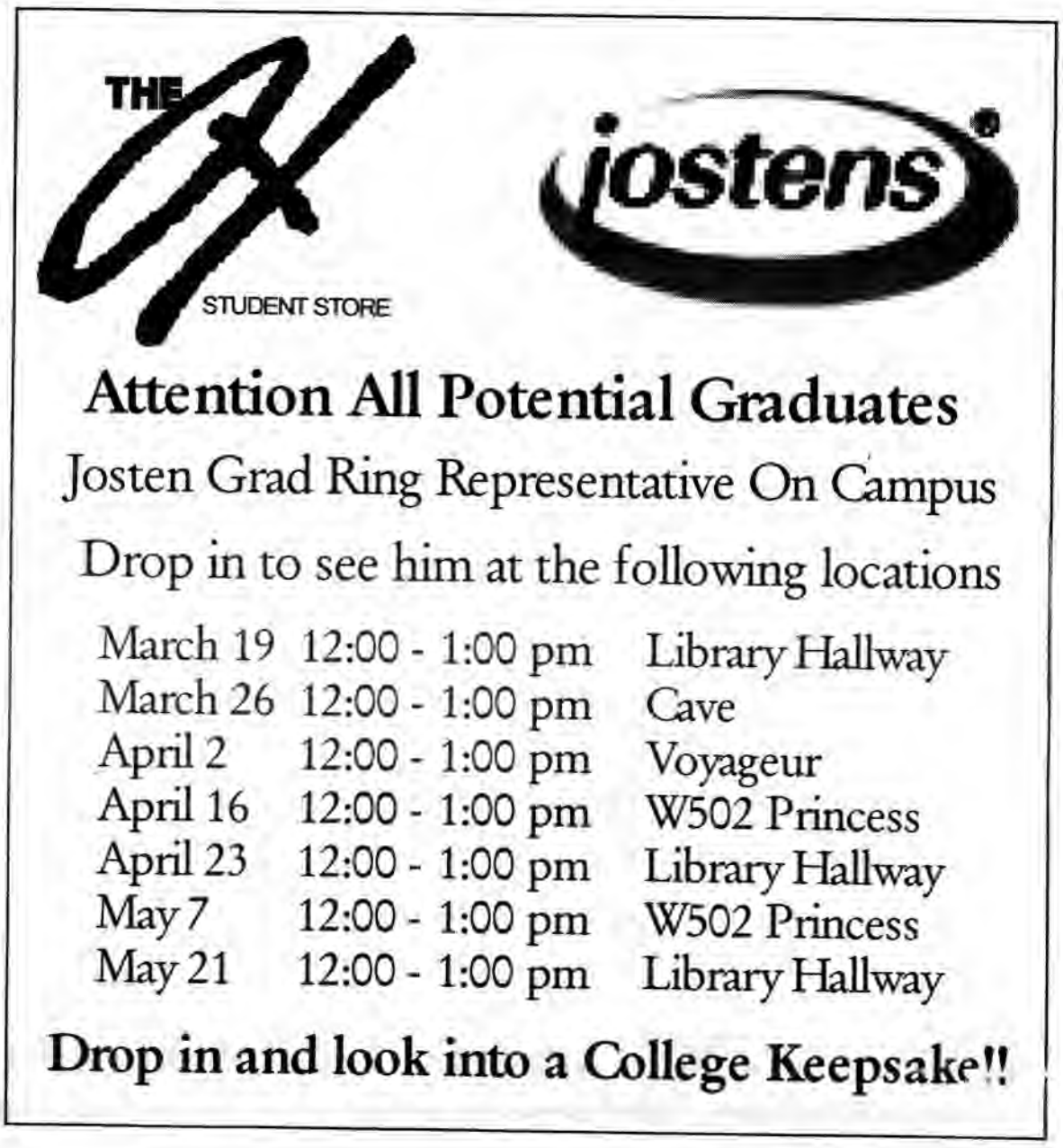
This is a reader's digest version of what you need to know about the power given to the people who will be elected next month (please refer to www.rrc.mb.ca, your student handbook or the RRCSA office for more details):

President - duties include chairing meetings of the Student Advisory Board and the Executive Committee, serving as a liason with RRC's administration and faculty, and serving as the student representative on the College Board of Governors.

Vice President of Student Affairs - responsibilities include assisting students with academic concerns and representing their interests with the college. Also responsible for external promotion and internal public relations of the SA.

Vice President of Finance and Support Services - working in conjunction with a finance committee and the executive director, is responsible for the financial records of the SA. Also responsible for overseeing the creation of the annual budget, developing the annual "student housing directory" and assisting with various student clubs.

Beaubrun says one of the biggest inheritances for the winners will be continuing to realize the SA as "a multi-campuses student association." One of the first steps towards achieving this will be the appointment of a vice president of Princess Street to provide advocacy with the administration at Princess Street campus from an office on-site.



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Executive Officer Responsibilities

In order to gain a better understanding of what is involved with being a Executive Officer; here is a run down of the responsibilities for each position.

Duties of the President

Full-Time Paid Position
The President acts as the Chief Executive Officer of the Students' Association. The President sets the yearly direction for the SA as well as reviews the Association's long-term goals to determine their viability or adjustments. The President is accountable for all operations of the Students' Association.

The President is the Student Representative to the Red River College Board of Governors. This is one of the most important duties as it gives the SA President the opportunity to be involved in the administration of the College as well as provides a form to voice student concerns and/or ideas at the highest administrative level possible.

The SA President acts as a liaison between the SA, College Administration, and the Divisions and Departments of Red River College. Generally, the SA President works mainly with the Dean of Student Services.

The President must also fulfill any obligations required by any of the committees the SA President resides on.

Duties of the Vice-President, Student Affairs

Part-Time Paid Position
The Vice-President, Student Affairs shall perform the duties of the SA President in the Absence, illness or incapacity of the President. The Vice-President, Student Affairs must have a complete and thorough understanding of the SA by-laws and Robert's Rules of Order.

The Vice-President, Student Affairs conducts all research and investigation into matters pertaining to internal student concerns. These investigations would involve collecting the information from students, College and SA staff in order to make a proper decision and informing the Executive as to whether action needs to be taken and whether the matter should be dealt with by a member of the Executive or the Student Advisory Board.

The Vice-President, Student Affairs acts as a liaison between the SA and all other student organizations. This would include maintaining relationships with the other post-secondary education institutions in the province. This also includes responding to requests for information from colleges and universities outside of the province.

The Vice-President, Student Affairs is responsible for the implementation of all external PR programs within the community, in conjunction with staff and/or College administration, upon approval of the Executive Committee.

The Vice-President, Student Affairs is also responsible for internal PR programs as requested by the Executive Committee.
executives need to help in their decision making processes. Try and keep an accurate and up-to-date file so that future executive can use this information to become more effective in their duties.

Duties of the Vice-President, Financial & Support Services

Part-Time Paid Position
The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services shall perform the duties of the Sa President in the absence, illness or incapacity of the President and Vice-President, Student Affairs.

The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services is responsible for the care and custody of all monies, securities, notes and other assets of the Students' Association.

The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services is responsible for the administration of the SA budget. The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services is responsible for ensuring the budget is prepared according to the SA by-laws and presented to the Student Advisory Board. The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services also reviews the previous years financial statements and presents them at the Association's Annual General Meeting. The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services also reviews the expenditures the SA makes during the year.

The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services presides as Chairperson of the SA's Finance Committee

The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services maintains all responsibilities under Section 16.00 of the SA by-laws. The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services manages the funds of all sub-organizations on campus and authorizes all their cheques with the Executive Director.

The Vice-President, Financial & Support Services is responsible for maintaining records of all proceedings of all the meetings of the Executive Committee, Student Advisory Board, and members of the Association to be entered formally and retained for safekeeping.

The Vice President, Financial & Support Services also prepares the annual Housing Directory.

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THE PROJECTOR
OPINION
March 17, 2003

Projector editors continue the time-honoured tradition of meeting their deadlines.

Photo by Jessie Piper

Ain't nothin' wrong with another unity song

Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned...until the colour of a man's skin is of no more significance than the colour of his eye...until that day, the dream of lasting peace, world citizenship, and the rule of international morality, will remain but a fleeting illusion, to be pursued, but never attained."
-Haile Selassie I

When Bob Marley put Haile Selassie's famous "War" speech to music for his Rastaman Vibration album, he created the definitive message of "one love" that was his goal as a musician.

Selassie's impassioned speech to the United Nations in 1968 is, sadly, still relevant today.

Racism is still with us 35 years later, and it doesn't look like it's going anywhere anytime soon.

With March 21, the International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination, on the horizon, the world doesn't seem to be doing much in the way of stopping racism.

Instead they're gearing up for a new war; one that's not necessarily racially motivated, but has resulted in racial profiling as well as racial/religious attacks on both sides.

Personally, I've never understood racists, but as a white male who's never been the victim of discrimination of any kind, my "let's all be friends" attitude might seem a bit naïve.

I know it's not that simple, but why can't it be? Have we really progressed so little over the centuries that something like skin colour is still a cause of hatred?

I'm not saying we should all become mindless automatons and ignore each other's cultural backgrounds. Quite the contrary.

As Marcus Garvey said, a person without knowledge of their culture and heritage is like "a tree without roots".

The multicultural mix of traditions, customs, art...even clothing is part of what makes the world such an interesting place to live in.

What I'm trying to say is that instead of fearing and hating another, we should learn to embrace it.

Maybe if people actually tried to educate themselves about someone else's culture, they could open doors to new experiences.

And it *is* fear that sparks hatred. Racists are the most uneducated, cowardly people around.

I especially dislike hearing about "reverse racism." There's no such thing. Racism is racism, hatred is hatred....and we need to stop both. Now.

Bob Marley, who had a white father and a black mother, knew better than most the experience of dealing with racism from both sides.

Bob taught me a lot about the pain of racial discrimination through his music, but better than that, he taught me the most important message of all:

One Love.

Let's give 'em something to talk about

Holy crap I've read a lot of war editorials lately. And most of them don't really shed any new light on the situation either, which not only questions why I continue to read them, but why writers continue to write them.

A few months, or even a few weeks ago, the majority of information found in newspapers could be considered just that--news.

Top secret weapons inspections just like in the movies and the Searching for bin Laden episodes sure kept me interested while I slammed my coffee in the morning. It was a lot like a Hollywood movie there for a while.

But count on the American government, those money-loving, power-hungry, let the rich get richer Republicans (much like the entertainment executives), to keep the show on the air a bit too long, (just like they did with the 'Coz), and drag out the collective interests of journalists and the public until headlines in the paper read as the TV guide's summer programming.

Then a new show hit the pages, so to speak.

The one about the entertainment industry joining the fight against the war.

First Sean Penn went to Iraq to play like any good journalist. I can see the scene now...

Fade in:

Penn lights a cigarette, furrows his brow and grabs a pen from behind his ear. He readies his notepad, gun tucked behind his belt under his shirt.

"Just the facts, baby," he says to a mustachioed man behind the desk.

Others who oppose the war include Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins (who it's rumoured, are making a musical opposing the war entitled: Make Love not Weapons of Mass Destruction) and Martin Sheen, who is not really the president but plays one on TV.

And of course Sheryl Crow, the one whose revolutionary sequin guitar straps, mini skirts and baby-tees it is said inspired Nelson Mandela, Che Guevara, the Dalai Lama, Ruben 'Hurricane' Carter, JFK and Brutus.

But the newest fad amongst printed pundits focuses on the ones who oppose all those left of centre.

Perhaps the most vocal of these right wing-industry giants is the stoic and heroic Bruce Willis, who appeared in matching blue suits with George W. Bush at a recent press conference.

The President momentarily lost his grip on the fiction/reality boundary during the conference, extolling the virtues of Willis, whom he described as a former military commander coming out of retirement to defend the country against an axis of evil led by a mustachioed dictator.

Willis then stepped to the microphone, perhaps confused by the President's words, to assure the country that securing the homeland is top priority and failure is not an option.

Another pro-war right-wing radical includes world renowned activist and intellectual Kid Rock, who voiced his approval for the war by twisting Pamela Anderson's nipple.

And so a war has given the entertainment industry and journalists, including myself, something new to talk about.

Because while war is no laughing matter, the entertainment industry obviously is.

RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2002-03

Diversity Events

MARCH

MARCH 7
Introduction to Diversity Workshop
Greenspace Management Program Students (closed session)

MARCH 13
ENTERTAINMENT
Latin at Lunch
Enjoy fine Latino music performed by Rob & Marcia
Voyageur Cafeteria 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Open to all!

MARCH 14
Introduction to Diversity Workshop
Wood Products Manufacturing Program Students
(closed session)
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Rm: A137

MARCH 17
FREE WORKSHOP
Free Belly Dancing Workshop with Jamiila Rajshani
Location: Tower Lounge 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!

MARCH 17 - 28
Them=Us: Photographic Journeys Across Our Cultural Boundaries
Check out this traveling exhibit featuring photographs and stories by Canadian photographers who journeyed to capture the essence of Canadian Diversity.
Location: Library Hallway

MARCH 20
ENTERTAINMENT
St. Patrick's Week Celebration featuring MEN IN KILTS!
Kick up your heels, have some fun, and see what happens when the Celts discover electricity!
Location: Tower Lounge 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!

MARCH 20 & 27
Cross-Cultural Nursing
College Preparation for Nursing Program Students
(closed session)
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Rm: F302

MARCH 21
VIDEO SERIES
International Day for the Elimination of Racism Diversity Video Series Presents:

Skin Deep - Students discuss their honest feelings and attitudes about race and racism
Location: Tower Lounge 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Blue Eyed - An innovative experiment in racism allows whites to experience, if only for a few hours, the emotional impact of racial bias.
Location: Tower Lounge 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

MARCH 22, 29, APRIL 5
FREE WORKSHOP
ESL Workshop: Improve your Academic Writing Skills
Free to all Students
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Rm: D310
Please be prepared to attend all three workshops
Register in room F214 or by calling 632-2404
DEADLINE TO REGISTER - MARCH 19, 2003

MARCH 24
Writing Women's Lives - Women's History Month Workshop
Presented by editor, publisher, and therapist Joan Turner
Location: Orange Lecture Theatre 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!

Free Introduction to Metis Finger Weaving
Make your own mini Metis sash!
Location: Aboriginal Resource Centre Rm: F209
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!
FREE WORKSHOP

MARCH 26
Stone Soup Storytellers presents:
Perfectly Wild Women in Celebration of Women's History Month with Traditional Storytelling performed by Kay Stone
Location: Library - CM18 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!

MARCH 27
Do you have what it takes?
An Interactive Workshop on Women and Policing
Presented by members of the Winnipeg Police Service
Location: Orange Lecture Theatre 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!

MARCH 28
VIDEO SERIES
Diversity Video Series presents:
Who's Counting - Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies & Global Economics
Location: Tower Lounge 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Free Dream Catcher Workshop
Location: Aboriginal Resource Centre Rm: F209
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
All Students and Staff are Welcome!
FREE WORKSHOP

Coordinated by:
The Student & Community Advisor - Diversity and Inclusive Initiatives Office
F214 - 2055 Notre Dame Avenue
E-mail: areynolds@rrc.mb.ca
www.rrc.mb.ca/cid

If you have a diversity event planned for April and would like it included in the next calendar, call: **632-2404**
Workshops specific to your area can be arranged, call: **632-2404**

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Manitobans want speed.

WINNIPEG – A recent poll has the majority of Manitobans placing high speed Internet access at the top of the list of most desirable consumer products. Travel to a warm destination was second. "Yeah, I'd say high speed Internet puts the bounce back in my step." said Mortimer J. Bullworth, a long-time Manitoban resident. "That, and hitting the beach during molting season." Seems Mr. Bullworth isn't alone. A high percentage of residents found DSL High Speed Internet service from MTS to offer the best of both worlds in that they have blistering fast speeds for uploads and downloads, as well as instant access to weather and travel sites where they could book tickets securely online. "I found a Club Med that allows large pets," said Mr. Bullworth, "that's essential for someone like me. And I use high speed Internet for instant messaging and even live Web casts from the beach. It's awesome." In addition to travel, many users find DSL High Speed Internet service from MTS gives them unprecedented speed for head-to-head gaming, chat lines and research. "And if you want to catch up on your favourite tv show by watching clips or downloading studio provided movie trailers, you're pretty well hosed unless you have DSL high speed," said Mr. Bullworth.

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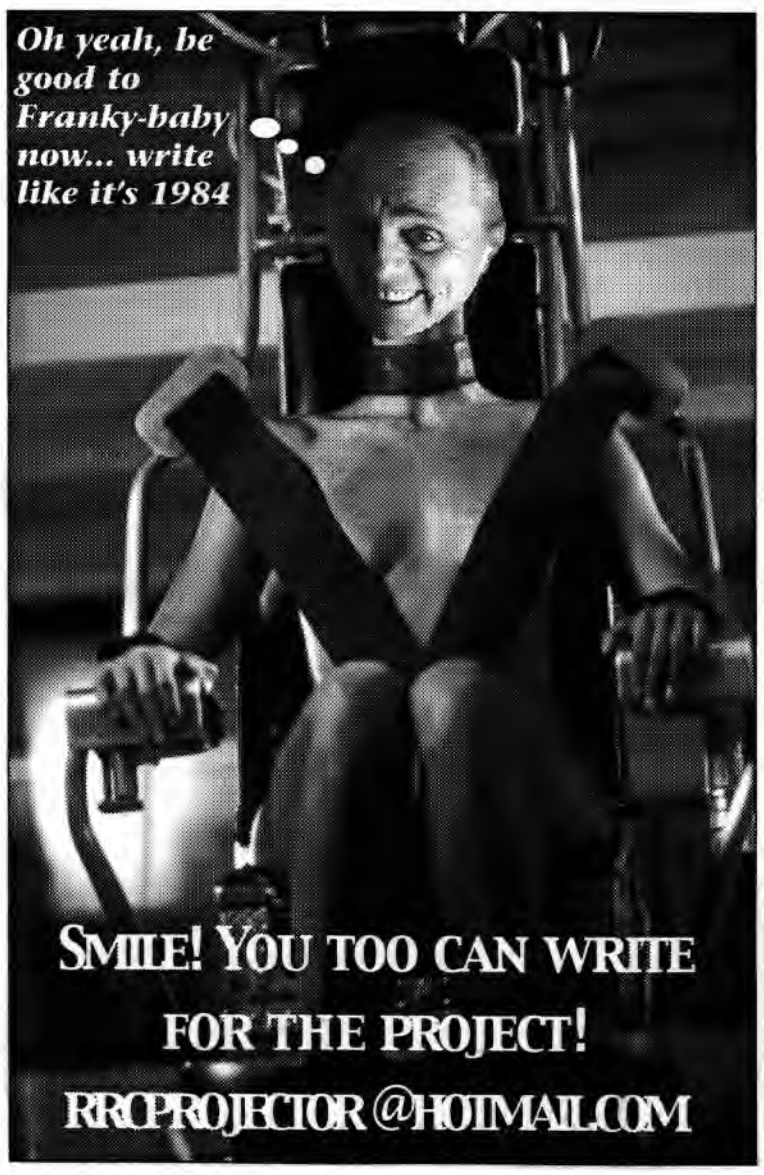
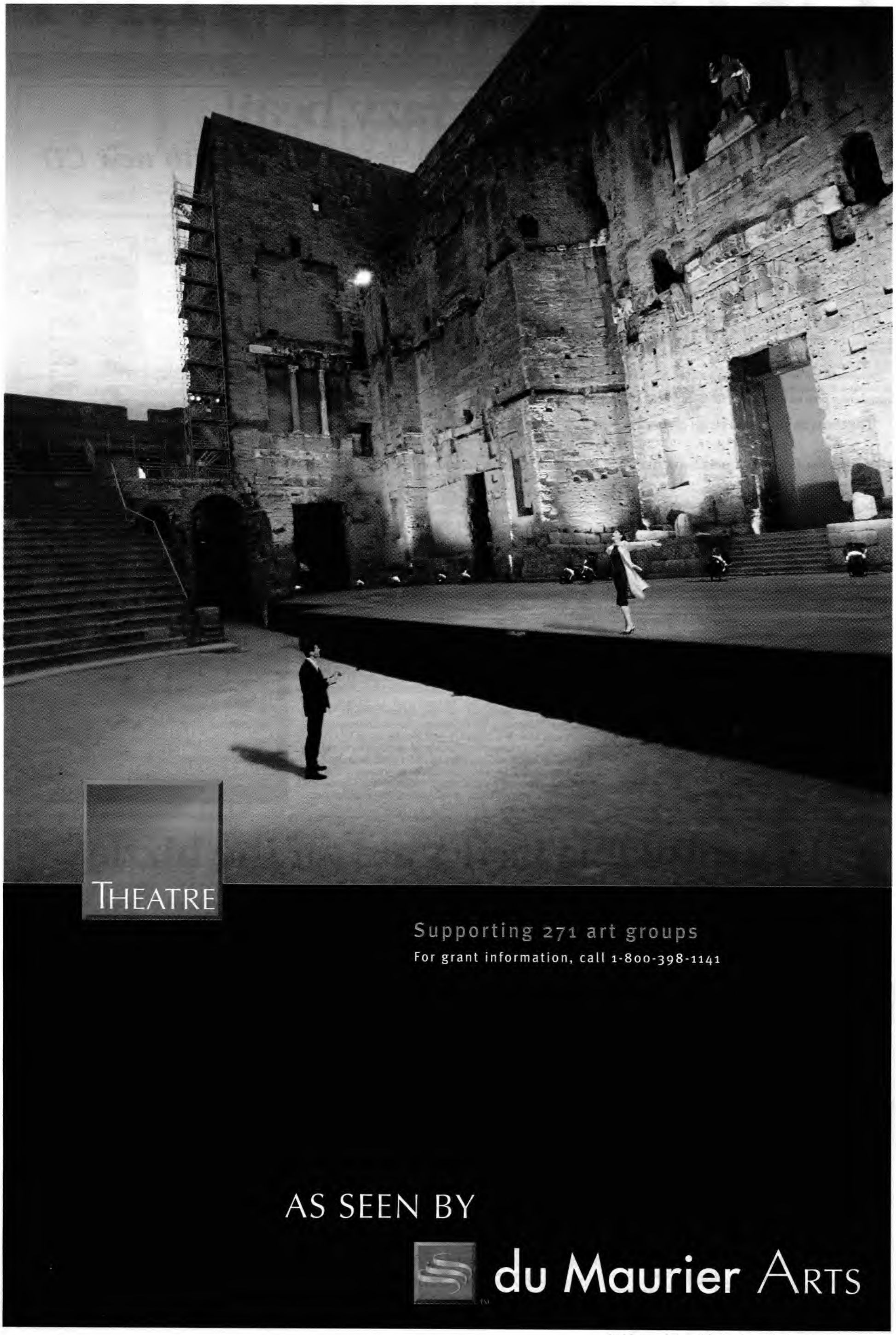
Important Food Bank Notice

All previous notice for 2003 Food Bank Days are to be disregarded. They have changed. New dates are:

Year 2003

- ❑ January 10, 2003
- ❑ January 24, 2003
- ❑ February 7, 2003
- ❑ February 21, 2003
- ❑ March 7, 2003
- ❑ March 21, 2003
- ❑ April 17, 2003
- ❑ May 2, 2003
- ❑ May 16, 2003
- ❑ May 30, 2003

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ENTERTAINMENT

Dig that crazy beat!

Hip-hop heads experience nation-wide talent with new CD

By Sam Thompson

The Gallivanting Spoof is anticipating the release of the Dig Your Roots:Hip-Hop compilation. The Winnipeg rapper's group, Frek Sho, is one of 15 hip-hop acts selected to appear on the national rap showcase.

"It's the first compilation in Canada that represents all the regions fairly," he says, "and it will also give artists some regular spins on campus radio for some months ahead."

Dig Your Roots is a five-year long project aimed at promoting underexposed, independent talent from all areas of Canada, in both official languages. Deanna Radford is DYR's Regional Coordinator for the Prairie region, one of five organizers across Canada.

"A national call for independent Canadian hip-hop submissions was posted in early October," she says. "Ideally, 20 submissions from each region of the country were chosen

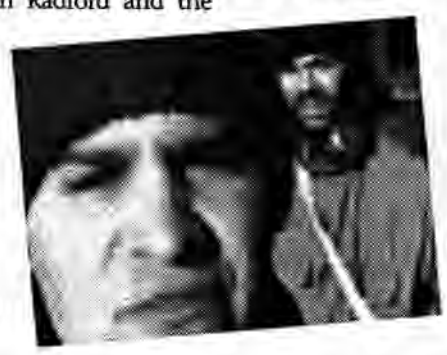
"The show in itself will be an awesome party,"

-Deanna Radford, Regional Co-ordinator

to be showcased on the Dig Your Roots Web site (www.digyourroots.ca) for a couple of months where viewers could check out artists' MP3s, bios and photos....and have the opportunity to give feedback on each of the groups."

In addition to the 15-track CD compliation, hip-hop fans will be able to check out the DYR experience live. A national tour featuring DYR artists performing in their respective regions kicks of in Winnipeg March 20. Edmonton's War Party will be performing, as well as Dangerous Goods Collective, and, of course, Frek Sho.

Both Radford and the



Gallivanting Spoof think the national release of the DYR compilation will help draw attention to the thriving, yet virtually unknown, regional scenes.

"Winnipeg is like this," Spoof says. "The commercial scene will always grow because it's always in the youth market. Radio and video dictates that, and it's always growing. The underground scene has been the same for a long time. The biggest problem is that people hardly mingle.

"Right now," he adds, "groups are only really getting their devoted followings out to shows and a few extra people. We have been doing this stuff for years and we are older and got day jobs and can't keep the same social lives anymore, so it's hard. I know for a fact that Winnipeg has sick groups and emcees, and it's up to the people to start supporting."

The DYR project was initiated by the National Campus/Community Radio Association, and, true to form, all of the performances will be broadcast live on campus radio stations across the country. Here in Winnipeg, CKUW 95.9 FM will be not only broadcasting the event, but hosting it as well.

"The show itself will be an awesome party," says Radford. "Alongside the Dangerous Goods Collective, War Party and Frek Sho, guest DJs will include locals DJ Co-op, Dialog and At Large. The broadcast performance will be hosted by Jello and Sweetdiva of 95.9's Lounge Radio."

Spoof says Frek Sho has taken advantage of DYR's national exposure by shooting a video for their contribution to the compilation, a very Winnipeg-oriented track called Fort Rouge.

"Any promotion is good promotion," he says. "We are happy to be on a compilation.

A video has been made for Fort Rouge, with an all new beat, and hopefully MuchMusic might play it a couple of times."

Furthering independent artists' careers, says Radford, is the goal of DYR.

"The plan," she says, "is that Dig Your Roots becomes über-well known as an excellent and reliable opportunity and chance for under-represented independent Canadian artists to gain exposure with their music. Another goal is to stimulate the visibility and solidarity of campus and community radio in Canada as the third sector of radio in the country."

Hip-hop, however, is just the beginning. DYR has nine more CDs planned from now until November, 2007. Covering virtually every genre of music, from classical, to jazz, to "audio art", the DYR compilations intend to spread the word about all kinds of independent music to the uninitiated across the country.

"The next project will feature spoken-word material," says Radford. "Interested artists should keep their ears to the ground and on their local campus/community radio stations to find out about the next call for submissions. It'll be well publicized."

The Dig Your Roots: Hip-hop tour kicks off March 20 in Winnipeg at the Avenue. The first 50 people receive a free copy of the compilation.

Also in this issue:

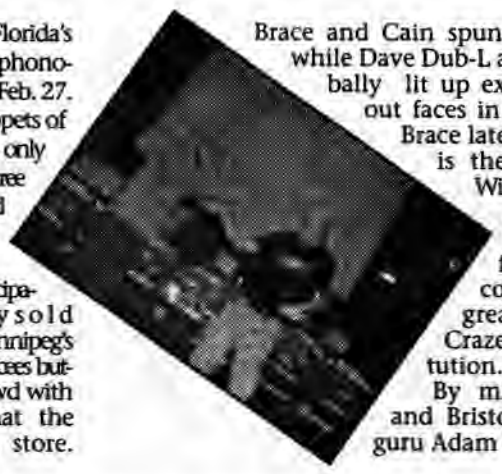
Holly McNarland....pg 13
The English Beat...pg 13
St. Frances of Hollywood...pg 14
Poetry Slam...pg 17
NSI Film Festival....pg 16
Cradle 2 Tha Grave...pg 18

DJ's turntable tactics are off the hizzle

By Jordan Chalifoux

With two turntables, one mixer and a laptop, Florida's DJ Craze entertained, spoke and dominated phonograph sounds for a hyped Avenue crowd on Feb. 27. Winnipeg's hip-hop community, amongst various snippets of other social groups, had high expectat' ns from the only ...n who won three consecutive World D M C Championships.

To build anticipation of the already sold crowd, Winnipeg's finest DJs and emcees buttered up the crowd with a taste of what the night had in store. DJs



Brace and Cain spun turntable platters, while Dave Dub-L and John Smith verbally lit up expressions throughout faces in the greater crowd. Brace later displayed why he is the best turntalbist in Winnipeg and third in Canada, with a full demonstration of finger skills that could one day have great influence like Craze's crossfader constitution.

By midnight DJs Craze and Bristol's drum and bass guru Adam F entered the stage. Deep pounds of bass shook through the floors of the Avenue, signaling that the time had come to witness Craze do his thing. Accompanying Adam F on the Drum and Bass Warfare Tour, Craze added precision in scratches, which balances the drum and bass set with a hip-hop influence. Tag teaming four turntables Craze and Adam F played a solid set for two and a half hours before exiting the stage.

But this was not the end. Craze came back to the stage as a large portion of the crowd hollered for more Craze. Turntablism is the key word to use when describing the sounds Craze dropped after his set with Adam F. Beat juggling routines mastered by Craze caused awestruck expressions through the crowd, which looked even more amazed once Craze cut up some of hip-hop's finest records. With this set being a tribute to the late Jam Master Jay, Craze exhibited how much the music of turntablism had grown since being created in the South Bronx. Craze added more musical gas to the fire when he started to play new tracks from the rap world's current kings. B-boys started breaking, girls started to shake body parts and hip-hop heads acted like they could control themselves.

This show was more than nice. It was amazing and will go down as one of the best shows from 2003, minus the oxygen bar. What is the deal with those at a hip-hop show? Crazy ravers.

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Holly McNarland: homecoming queen

Juno-winning singer-songwriter's feet end up back home in 'Peg City

By Sam Thompson

It's the only date on the tour I can ever remember, because I get to come home." Holly McNarland is excited about returning to Winnipeg as part of her tour in support of her new album, Home Is Where My Feet Are. The award-winning singer/songwriter says stopping off in her hometown is always the best part of a tour...and not just because of her friends and family.

"The reaction is usually pretty good in Winnipeg," she says. "I love coming home. Winnipeg always has the best participating audience, they really get into it. Not like some places, where the crowd just stands there like lumps."

McNarland's impressive career and near-cult following are unlikely to make concertgoers "stand there like lumps" in any city she visits. The singer has an independent EP and a Platinum-selling full-length debut under her belt, as well as a Juno award for Best New Solo Artist in 1998. McNarland, frankly, is sick of hearing about her Juno all the time.

"The Juno is just a trophy thing," she says. "I don't think the fans care about that type of thing. I'm sure there are maybe SOME people who buy records based on Juno winners, but it really hasn't affected my fans.

"The Juno is just a trophy thing. I don't think the fans care."
-Holly McNarland

"It's cool, though," he adds, "to have that announcement, the big, epic, 'Juno award-winner,' but I bet there are hundreds of people who have won Junos that I don't even know about."

Home Is Where My Feet Are is the natural follow-up to that award-winning debut, Stuff. A mixture of soft, acoustic balladry and upbeat pop-rock numbers, McNarland herself has a hard time defining her genre.

"I've always found it hard to explain what my music sounds like," she admits. "I guess it's pop, because it's popular music, but it's hard to describe. I guess you could call it melodic, vocally-driven music."

However you want to describe it, it does the trick for McNarland's legions of fans across Canada and worldwide. Despite moving to Vancouver and putting her musical career on hiatus for a few years to raise her son, McNarland found that her new music was as appreciated by her fans as it had been before she took her sabbatical. The stripped-down beauty of her music and her emotional, introspective lyrics have even appealed to some unexpected audiences...

"I find that my audience can be anywhere between 18 and 50 (years old)," she says. "Sometimes you get these older people, and they always really love it! It's not like 'I don't understand this new music'; they really get into it. I think that's kind of cool."

McNarland's plans for her current tour include treating fans in Winnipeg and across the country to some new songs, which will be part of an album she hopes to release in the fall.

"The new songs are gonna be pretty mellow," she says. "I think I really enjoy doing the mellow songs. I can really get into it. The best kind of music is the kind that can give you goosebumps, you know? I like the heavier stuff, too, but it's just not the same.

"I hope to see my music evolve," she says. "It's really therapeutic for me to play music, so I want it to progress and to change, but I have no idea what it's going to evolve into."

Although, as her album suggests, McNarland's home is wherever her feet are, her Winnipeg fans are bound to give the sometime Wolseley resident the homecoming she deserves.

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April 7-11, 2003 9 am-4 pm

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Audience Beat-en into submission

By Sean Kavanagh

The other night I went to see an icon from another era-- The Beat, or The English Beat, if you must. The only word I could give to my friends as I walked from the front of the stage to where they were sitting was "sad."

Sad because at one time, the lead singer had the most distinctive voice in Ska music. Sad because he'd been to Winnipeg twice in various bands and played great shows. And sad because The Beat was a part of a musical movement that was known for their musical integrity- forget the bullshit, just play your brains out.

The only word I could give my friends was "sad."

Over at the Pyramid that night, Dave Wakeling, the singer for The English Beat showed up with a couple of musicians from LA and a lot of prerecorded tape. I mean drum tracks, vocals, bass, keyboard and horns. He had a guy scratching some of the lead guitar parts on a turntable, a drummer, and, hired that day out of Winnipeg, a fellow with a trumpet that didn't even know all the songs. In a small way, I know how some people felt when Elvis went Vegas.

Almost half the music coming off the damn stage was canned, on tape, as in not live. Listen, I'm not paying anything for karaeoke. That kind of crap might sell to the J-Lo's of this world, but leave me out of it. That's why it was so sad. This guy was a hero. Now he's lip-synching to his own tunes in a half filled bar in Winnipeg. Oh, how the mighty have fallen.

The demographic, too. I saw ave Wakeling at the Playhouse 12 years ago. It was packed. He played the Pyramid two years ago-- packed. Both times he brought eight to 10-piece bands. Real players. A horn section, a dude on a Hammond B3 and two singers.

Wakeling's latest saw bunch of jaded thirty- somethings like me hang around The Pyramid to watch this once proud performer puke up his integrity into a small bucket before going on stage to cheat everyone out of a few bucks. Sad.

The English Beat have two albums that are really amazing: What is Beat? and Special Beat Service– Check 'em out.

But don't bother to see the band live- stick a fork in its ass and turn it over-it's done.

For every issue of the Projector you read, Scott Prouse gets a smile on his face.

Don't do it for the college.
Don't do it for me.
Do it for Scott Prouse.
He needs to get a new top half to his head.

rrcprojector@hotmail.com

I'll tell you where you can put your kittens.....

By Joff Schmidt

WARNING: the following contains strong language, playwrights, and unkind words about kittens. Don't say we didn't warn you.

There's one thing you immediately notice about Sally Clark when she reads from her plays: she's very animated.

"And you can take your fucking kittens and your fucking dog named Sport and your fucking biography and shove it up your fucking ASS!" she storms, gesticulating wildly as she reads the closing lines from her play St. Frances of Hollywood.

It's hardly the kind of thing you'd expect from Clark, a pleasant middle-aged Canadian playwright. But she has made a career of delivering the unexpected.

Her newest play, WANTED, is set to premiere in Whitehorse this month. The play tells the stories of women during the Klondike gold rush.

"I really want to write about people that no one knows about... the losers," says Clark, who was in town to attend the opening of St. Frances at the Black Hole Theatre.

"I hope it's universal," she says of WANTED, "because it's about power struggles."

This is familiar ground for Clark. St. Frances explores similar themes through the tragic story of film star Frances Farmer. Other Clark plays, such as Moo (for which she won a prestigious Chalmers award) and The Trial of Judith K. (which received a Governor General's award nomination) are also stories of women in conflict with a world where men seem to be in charge.

"It started because I had a friend who was an actress. I would see the sort of parts she'd get, like somebody's girlfriend." But she denies the "feminist" label.

"If I have a woman who's the heroine, she's got to have conflict. It appears I'm writing feminist dramas, but I'm not. It's just drama."

The state of modern Canadian drama concerns her, though. "People have become very timid in the theatre," she says.

"People like to see new stuff, but I think the marketing people don't like to see new stuff."

Clark remains committed to pushing boundaries. "I think you want to create an experience that's so extraordinary that people want to go back to the theatre," she says.

She's encouraged by the Black Hole Theatre's efforts to stage St. Frances. "It's a hard play to do," she acknowledges. Still, she remains optimistic about the production. "Quite often, some of the amateur productions are better than some of the professional ones."

Meghan McNicol (left) as Frances Farmer in Black Hole Theatre Company's St.Frances Of Hollywood

Frances Farmer has her revenge on Winnipeg stage

By Joff Schmidt

Long before Courtney Love and Shannen Doherty made headlines as "difficult" actors, there was Frances Farmer.

A rebellious and outspoken woman, Farmer became one of Hollywood's most glamorous movie stars during the 1930s and '40s, only to be humiliated and blacklisted by the studios, and institutionalized by her own mother. Farmer has become such an iconic figure that Nirvana even wrote a song about her ("Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge On Seattle").

So how do you tell the story of one of America's most tragic film icons? You get a bunch of Canadians to bring it to the stage.

This is the formula behind St. Frances of Hollywood, the final production of the season for the University of Manitoba's Black Hole Theatre Company. The biographical play, by award-winning Canadian playwright Sally Clark, is co-directed by Nathan Dueck and Katherine Foster, two University of Manitoba students.

Dueck and Foster have been discovering some of the challenges St. Frances poses for directors. "Intellectual space is whole hell of a lot different than theatrical space," grins Dueck, who is pursuing a masters degree in English.

"The major challenge is that the play is filmic in style," he says, noting that the play, like a film, makes use of short scenes which move quickly from one location to another.

Another challenge is finding an actor to pull off the demanding role of Farmer, a character who is on stage for virtually the entire play. But Foster, who is completing her B.A. in English, is quick to point out that Meghan McNicol, who plays Farmer, is "magnificent. She has a determination and a willfulness that is so essential to the character."

McNicol is far from alone onstage, though - the production boasts a cast of 19 actors playing 37 different characters.

So why are Dueck and Foster taking on the challenge of producing this play?

"The life of Frances Farmer is very fascinating," says Foster.

A beautiful and talented actor, Farmer was heralded as "the next big thing" when she made her film debut in 1936, but soon fell from grace.

One of Hollywood's original "bad girls," Farmer was arrested for drunk driving in 1942. The spirited Farmer refused to cooperate with police and court officials, listing her occupation as "cocksucker" on the police report and arguing with the judge during her sentencing. Her rebellious nature lead to the diagnosis that she was "mentally incompetent." Farmer spent seven years in mental institutions, where she was brutally treated by asylum guards and doctors.

"Clark takes a story we know ends badly, but we never really know whose fault it is," says Dueck. "It's a show that tells a lot of story in a short time."

The play also gives the pair a chance to bring edgy theatre to the city. "You probably wouldn't see this play on MTC's mainstage," says Dueck.

What do they hope the audience will take away from the experience of St. Frances? "Not necessarily answers, but questions," says Foster. "This play poses the questions of what caused the events of her life. Can we call Frances Farmer a victim, as such?"

In spite of dealing with a tragic story, Dueck maintains that the production doesn't set out to depress its audience. "The audience would discount the experience if they left sad," he says. "If they leave depressed, we've failed."

St. Frances of Hollywood runs March18-22 at 8:00 p.m. in the Black Hole Theatre (basement of University College, on the University of Manitoba's Fort Garry Campus). Tickets are $11 for adults, $9 for students and seniors, and are available at the door or by calling 474-6880.

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Date information to follow.

WE NEED YOUR OPINION!

Buck wild in movieville

By Sabrina Carnevale

Film festival an eye-popping experience for reviewer

I found the fifth annual NSI FilmExchange Film Festival to be an extremely exciting experience. It was the combination of watching films in -30 degrees Celsius, being surrounded by hundreds of industry professionals, and mingling with filmmakers from all over Canada. The event was a bit surreal for me, and having been a first timer at the festival, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. The festival incorporated industry seminars, panel discussions, forums, showcases of short films, receptions, feature film screenings, and parties—lots of parties.

SnowScreen, the festival's opening night event, was held March 4 at the University of Winnipeg quadrangle. The theme of the event was "Come on out to the Cold!" and boy were they right. The temperature was blisteringly chilly, and of course I accidentally wore the thinnest pair of socks I own and forgot my toque.

However, festival organizer Bill Evans counted about 300 people that Tuesday night, which made for quite an entertaining and well-attended event. There were fire pits situated throughout the quadrangle, but it was so cold outside that I couldn't stand around the fire long enough to feel its heat. Luckily, there was a heated tent with free hot chocolate and popcorn where people could stay warm. There were also seats and haystacks in the quadrangle for people to sit on and a gigantic block of snow where the NSI ZeD Drama Prize winners had their films premiered. The experience was humourous at times, seeing people shiver, their teeth chattering and toes freezing as they stared seamlessly at a huge block of snow that acted as a screen for five short films.

On the morning March 6, I attended Master Class II: Directing with Mina Shum, director of Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity. During her master class, Shum discussed aspects of rehearsing certain scenes.

"Rehearsals make better shows," Shum says. "Make sure to pick a series of great collaborators that see your vision." When rehearsing, Shum enjoys improvisation to relax the cast and set the mood. Shum also gave insight into how important actors are in the film process. "It's about building trust with the actors," she says. "Actors love to be directed."

Preparation is also significant to Shum as it allows her to plan things ahead of time. "The preparation time will answer all the questions," she says. When I spoke to Shum afterwards, she told me that directing takes a lot of dedication. "If you really want to direct, it takes a lot of will, discipline and vision," Shum says. "Success is determined by your own standards."

On the second floor of The Fort Garry Hotel was the screening room where people could see short films in the privacy of three blocked off areas equipped with a small television, VCR and headphones. There were short films from the NSI, the National Film Board, the Winnipeg Film Group, and a few from this year's showcase of Canadian Short Films.

This year, the NSI FilmExchange set a new record by selling out four feature films compared to two feature films last year. However, this year's festival was held at the Globe Theatre where seat capacity is almost 250 in contrast to over 400 seats at the Garrick Theatre where last year's festival was held. This year's feature film sellouts included Charles BinamÉ's Seraphin, David Cronenberg's Spider, Nicolas Winding Refn's Fear X and Jeffrey Erbach's The Nature of Nicholas. Both Fear X and The Nature of Nicholas were filmed in Manitoba. The variety of this year's feature films was quite diverse. Some of the films included an adaptation of a 1939 French novel (Seraphin), a young boy going through puberty (The Nature of Nicholas), a Canadian pornographer who travels to Romania to find new talent (The Wild Dogs), and a young girl determined to bring happiness back to her overworked single mother's life (Long Life, Happiness & Prosperity).

I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with Keith Behrman, director of the Claude Jutra award winning film Flower and Garnet that screened at the film festival on Thursday night. Flower and Garnet was developed through the NSI Features First program. In this film, Behrman relied on a visual aspect and tried to use intelligence to engage the audience. The film was shot in Ashcroft, a small town about three hours from Vancouver. Years ago, Behrman wanted to be a novelist, but now tries to convey what he writes through his films. Behrman recognizes that everything he films is for a reason. "It's always intentional, I have a vision and I articulate it," he says. As well, the personality of the film is important. "I love working with actors, they embody the characters." When asked what advice he would give to an aspiring filmmaker, his response was simple and realistic. "Just make films that matter to you."

Now the nightly parties were something altogether different. This was the place to see all of the industry professionals in a different light, away from the cameras, lights and schedules. The parties took place in a variety of locations such as the opening night gala at the Winnipeg Art Gallery to a more laid-back setting at Ivory Restaurant. The drinks were flowing, the conversation was fast paced and the music was loud. Anyone and everyone came to the parties to converse, dance and, well, gossip I suppose.

So overall my experience at the festival was a memorable one, filled with early mornings, late nights, interviews, meeting people, rushing, finding parking, paying for parking, locking my keys in my car, changing clothes, movie screenings, lack of sleep, and lastly, of course, lots of parties.

CULTURAL INSIGHTS COLUMN

Prejudice + Power = Racism

Since 1966, March 21st has been celebrated as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Some of you may have seen the advertisements- "Racism- Stop It!" and "Raise Your Hand Against Racism"- you may even have the popular little hand sticker. But what does all this really mean? What exactly is racism? How can we stop it? The answer to the second question lies in our understanding of the first. In order to put an end to racism, we must first understand it for what it is, and more importantly, we must be aware of its consequences.

So what is racism? It's natural for the human being to categorize and compartmentalize- it's how our brain deals with everything- we judge everything that comes at us and we decide where to place it in relation to ourselves. It's also natural to fear that which we don't understand. However, often this combination of judgment based on fear and misunderstanding has a lethal outcome- prejudice and stereotyping. Anyone, no matter their cultural or ethnic background, can fall prey to prejudice. An Asian person may be prejudiced towards Aboriginal people; an Aboriginal person may be prejudiced towards people of African descent, and on and on. Prejudice is ugly and unfair, but it's not necessarily racism. The key to understanding racism is in the realization that it exists when an imbalance of power exists: Prejudice + Power = Racism. For one group of people to have power over another may mean many things. It might mean they hold the majority, giving them the say to shape society. It can be political power, or economic, social, and psychological power. Power can mean the ability to make others conform to our will, while never having to bend to theirs.

The consequences of racism are immense and they are tragic- not only for those who are its targets, but for all of us. Racism degrades our society. It degrades our relationships to each other. It breeds a hatred that rots us from the inside. It chains us to misunderstanding and fear. These days, blatant racist behaviour has become more socially unacceptable, but the attitudes that fuel racism still run strong. Although overt acts of racism continue to be perpetuated, racist acts as a whole have become far more subtle- which is even more terrifying as it becomes easier to deny that racism exists. Racism can feel like a really intangible idea, but it has very real and tangible effects and consequences. Racism increases poverty. It decreases accessibility to education, employment, even housing. It reduces freedom and choice. It makes people feel inferior, unwanted, discarded. Racism means always having to conform and adapt to the people who hold the power- it means they never have to adapt to you. It is invisibility and voiceless ness.

What would a world without racism look like. Well, it wouldn't be an easy world. It would take effort- the effort to understand, accept, respect, and celebrate other people's diversity. It would require us to extend our compassion and reach out to one another. A world without racism would require us to walk a fine and tricky line between acknowledging the fundamental similarities between all human beings- our common humanity- while simultaneously honouring the beauty and the importance of our differences. Ending racism isn't about eliminating uniqueness. It isn't about not seeing colour. It's about seeing people for everything that they truly are, acknowledging their difference, honouring it, and then moving beyond it, and getting down to the business of living and working together. It's about finding unity in our diversity.

So all this being said, what can you do? Well, small steps or great bounds, everyone has a role. Here are a few ideas:

- Acknowledge that racism exists.
- Expand your awareness! Seek to understand what racism is , its complexity, and its consequences. Talk to your friends and family, talk to people from other ethnic groups. Get on-line and find out what national and international anti-racism groups are doing. Attend a workshop. Read a book. Watch a movie about racism. Share this awareness with others.
- Examine your own stereotypes and prejudices- even being aware of your reactions to other people is a step towards change.
- Learn cross-cultural communication skills.
- Be curious! Talk to people who are different from you. Attend different cultural events. Learn about the histories of other ethnic people. Dispel the myths.
- Don't use racist language or tell racial jokes and speak up when other people do.
- Examine your own sense of self-worth- it effects how you treat other people.
- Research your own ethnic and cultural background.
- Join a local anti-racism organization.
- Practice zero-tolerance against racism. Let your actions and your voice reflect it.

For more information, please contact the:
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DMX: Just another pretty face

Cradle 2 The Grave
Starring: Jet Li and DMX
****/5**

By Kristin Marand

What can I tell you about this movie? Well what can you expect, it's a movie with Jet Li and DMX. A couple of actors that are fine in their respective fields but have little talent when it actually comes to acting. At least they're kind of easy on the eyes.

The premiere for the DMX/Jet Li movie Cradle 2 the Grave was held Feb. 24 at Polo Park Silver City.

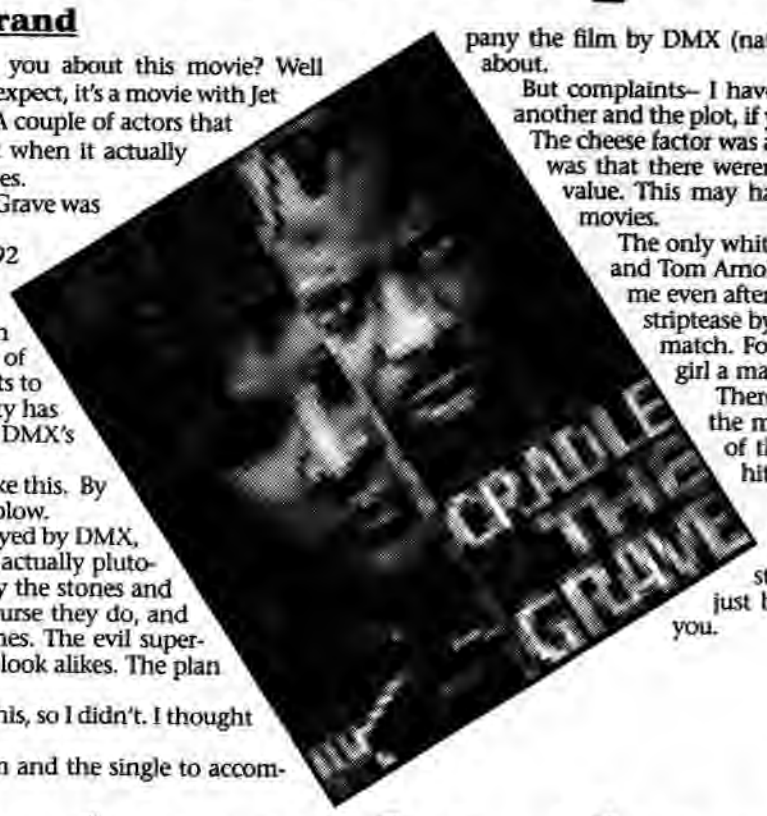
The first thing that struck me as unusual was that 92 CITI FM was hosting the event. But that's how I got in and got killer seats in a full theater so I'm not complaining. Radio personality Cosmo even had his own "prize biatch" to hand out the swag. I found it kind of strange that a classic rock station was giving away tickets to a rap concert , but whatever. I guess no station in the city has more right to give them away than any other seeing as DMX's stuff isn't exactly radio friendly.

My standards aren't too high when I go into things like this. By that I mean I go into it knowing full well it's going to blow.

The story here was that a single jewel thief father, played by DMX, comes into posession of some black diamonds that are actually plutonium. Jet Li is a special Taiwanese agent sent to destroy the stones and make sure they don't fall into the wrong hands. Of course they do, and the world's evil superpowers gather to bid on the stones. The evil superpower group was only missing Bin Laden and Hussein look alikes. The plan is foiled and everybody goes home happy.

Now you can't expect much going into a movie like this, so I didn't. I thought the soundtrack might at least be decent.

With the exception of the opening track by Eminem and the single to accompany the film by DMX (naturally), there wasn't anything else to write home about.



But complaints– I have a few. First of all the movie was one cliché after another and the plot, if you want to call it that, was ridiculously predictable. The cheese factor was also really high. Another thing I noticed in this flick was that there weren't a lot of white people in it, unless for comedic value. This may have been a stab at minority representation in the movies.

The only white characters in the movie were a gay security guard and Tom Arnold. ..'nuff said. Another complaint that stuck with me even after the movie was over was that during the obligatory striptease by the very pretty leading lady, her underwear didn't match. For fuck's sake! You have the money, at lest give the girl a matching bra and panties.

There were more than a few laughs and not just 'cause the movie was stupid. It was really funny watching one of the first scenes, in which an overweight chaufeur hits on said security guard.

This movie also had some great action sequences and fight scenes.

Don't go see this movie if you're looking for a story line, but if you want to shut off your brain and just be entertained, this movie will definitely do it for you.

Where there's smoke, there's incense

Unlike Bill Clinton, you've probably inhaled

By Ryan Block

The smoke has a distinct aroma and should be quite familiar to many people around the world. You've been exposed to it before, hey . . . you've probably even inhaled. After all, it does smell good and after being used for thousands of years across the globe for relaxation and religious purposes, isn't it about time you caught a whiff of incense?

The history of incense dates back thousands of years. Both ancient Egyptians and Indians used incense in sacrificial ceremonies. It was also used heavily in other religious ceremonies to drive away evil spirits and fight unpleasant odors, just like a modern day air freshener.

However, unlike products put forth by companies today to make air smell pretty, incense used to be 100 per cent natural, with scents and aromas ranging from sandalwood and patchouli to jasmine, lavender, rose, and saffron. These days things have changed, most scents aren't completely natural anymore.

In the past, incense was made of resin ingredients found in nature, such as frankincense and myrrh, along with aromatic woods, barks, seeds, roots, herbs and flowers.

Ancient Israelis used incense that was a combination of frankincense, onycha, storax, and galbanum with salt added as a preservative. In the religious rituals of Israelis, incense was so important it had separate altars specifically for it's burning.

Since the 1600s, chemicals have been taking over the ingredient list of incense. For nearly 400 years, natural ingredients have been substituted by chemicals and synthetic replacements from the perfume industry.

Because of the high cost of labour and the time and intensity involved in the traditional creation of incense, most of it is created through mass production in a factory. The one exception to this broad sweeping rule is in India, (most notably, south India) where to this day, incense manufacturers diligently follow the traditional and natural masala method.

Are you searching for a distinct scent that no store-bought incense can match? The solution is simple, make your own. Instructions abound on the Internet, simply click on your favorite browser and start your search. You'll find hundreds of Web sites decided to incense, but take note that most of the results of your search will be Web sites hosted by companies who specialize in selling incense and have taken their company onto the Internet to spread their scents around the world.

The most easily available scents for incense include sandalwood, frankincense, juniper, myrrh, rose petals, cinnamon, copal, cedar, thyme, pine, bay, rosemary, and basil, but the possibilities are endless and the variety of scents is limited only by creativity.

The three wise men who journeyed to visit baby Jesus brought three gifts. They were gold, frankincense and myrrh. Incense is extremely popular and continues to be used by every race and religion around the world for a variety of purposes.

Some people use it while meditating to help them relax, or merely to freshen the air inside their home while they carry on about daily tasks. A good friend of mine has a ready supply of incense at his home to cover the aromatic smell of something else that people have been smoking for thousands of years.

So when looking to freshen the air or enjoy a little mental clarity, grab a stick of incense and light it up. You'll be taking part in a pleasant and aromatic experience that people around the world have been enjoying for over 7000 years.

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Poetry gets slammed at coffee house

By Lindsey Wiebe

The coffeehouse is full of them. Hemp-clad students, graying retirees, middle-aged women in neatly buttoned blouses. They're frowning, chewing their pencils, scribbling furiously on notepads, journal pages, napkins. Excited, tense, a little nervous, and with good reason: These are poets, after all, and they're about to leap into the lion's den of a poetry slam.

An abundance of emerging writers, loyal fans and a host of volunteers have maintained a thriving poetry scene in Winnipeg. Open-mike poetry nights have helped pave the way for slam poetry, a relatively new movement which turns performance poetry into a competitive art.

Academy Coffee acts as host for the Winnipeg Poetry Slam, as well as a monthly open-mike known as Speaking Crow. Though both events welcome readings by local poets, the experiences are distinctly different.

"Open mikes are laid back," says poet Marni Matikka, who's been involved in the scene for roughly three and a half years. "You can look around the room and see many people savouring every word with closed eyes."

This warm reception helps reduce stress for beginners. Winnipeg has a tightly-knit writing community, and first time readers are always met with extra encouragement and applause.

Poetry slams give the same support a different twist. Members of

continued on page....

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-Erin Johnson, JBN

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Poetry gets slammed

continued from page 17

Members of the audience are equipped with scorecards; poets are given marks out of 10. The five highest scoring poets compete with a final poem and the poet who scores the highest overall walks away with a cash prize.

If open mikes are warm mugs of tea, poetry slams are double espressos. The vibrancy and friendly competitive edge make the mood electric. Favourite readers receive wild applause; low scores are often met with boos. And beyond the full-to-capacity crowd at an open mike, slams are full beyond capacity with people lining the walls and hovering in the lobby.

The main difference between the slams and open mikes might be best described by www.poetryslam.com.

"Slam is engineered for the audience, whereas a number of open mike readings are engineered as a support network for poets," the Web site reads.

While previous slams have been held at the Winnipeg Public Library, the increased interest and creation of the Winnipeg Poetry Slam can be credited to visiting Vancouverite Darek Dawda. With the support of the Writers Collective, a Winnipeg based writers' group, Dawda hopes to help send a group of finalists to compete as a team in this year's National Poetry Slam in Chicago.

"We have been having so much fun with this," says Dawda. "I think it's good to create little islands of sanity, spaces that give alternative ways of communicating and spending time."

Writers Collective co-ordinator Janine LeGal agrees. "I believe that events like these are extremely important, not only to the arts and writing community, but also to the larger community around us," she says. "Making art accessible is crucial for a better world, I think."

Whether at slams or open mikes, the level of encouragement given to poets is the same. Many writers, like Matikka, reap the benefits from attending both events.

"I would never have gotten up on that stage my first time if it wasn't for the loving atmosphere," says Matikka. "This is what I love about Winnipeg. The writing community will immediately nurture your efforts, if you let yourself be known and ask for it."

For those just stepping up to the plate at either a slam or an open mike, Dawda's advice is straight and to the point.

"Do it," he says. "Most people fear exposing themselves; writing is such a personal activity--fear, fear, fear-- but the way to overcome fear is to face the situation."

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music reviews

50 CENT
Get Rich Or Die Tryin'
Aftermath/Shady Records
****/5**

Eminem has obviously been violating his parole. The erstwhile Marshall Mathers can be subjected to random drug tests as part of his release in his infamous weapons arrest. So he's supposed to be clean. One listen to his newest protégé, however, makes you wonder just what he's been smoking.

50 Cent is the newest in a long line of brutal rappers riding on the coattails of hip-hop's Great White Hope. Eminem seems to have this weird sense of honour wherein he feels his friends are entitled to share in his success; no matter how cacophonic their vocals may be.

Get Rich Or Die Tryin' looks like a hip-hop classic when you read the liner notes. Production from Eminem, Dr. Dre and Mike Elizondo; guest spots from the likes of Nate Dogg....even a farm animal making random grunting noises could make this thing sound good. 50 Cent, unfortunately, is a worse rapper than your average goat.

In all honesty, the only comparison for this idiot's voice is to a mentally challenged antelope that's been hit by a semi and is trying to yell for help. In fact, that antelope could probably write better lyrics. This album is a disgusting waste of the producers' talents, because top-notch, Aftermath-quality beats are being abused with insipid lyrics about guns and drugs.

It's a sad state of affairs when the "Slim Shady seal of approval" can turn an album that can be described as hideous at best into a best-seller. One gets the feeling that Eminem took on 50 Cent as a charity case. The guy's apparently been shot nine times, including once in the face, so you'd think now that he's a celebrity, he'd be smart enough to put down the guns.

This moron has been in the spotlight for only a few months and he's already started publicly spitting hatred for Ja Rule. After a few years of peace in which rappers WEREN'T getting shot every five minutes, this steroid-driven, macho moron is trying to bring violence back into the spotlight. A+, champ. Unfortunately, it's nothing new. 50 Cent tries to be a tough guy by pointing a gun at the camera inside the liner notes, but that's as old as the hills. At least when Ice Cube did it on Straight Outta Compton, it was on the FRONT cover, not hidden in the middle somewhere.

Dr. Dre, who was also on the Straight Outta Compton album cover, should be ashamed of himself for attaching his name to this project. However, the good doctor did his part by contributing hot beats. More than anyone, Dre probably knows how phony 50 Cent actually is. And he's probably laughing all the way to the bank.

-Sam Thompson

Ry Cooder and Manuel Galban
Mambo Sinuendo
Nonesuch/Perro Verde
******/5**

This already classic album (at least in my collection) features a pairing of one of the world's most legendary slide guitarists, Ry Cooder, with one of Cuba's greatest jazz guitarists, Manuel Galban.

The two team up to create a poolside-lounge ambiance complete with boat drinks and flip-flops. Sort of like a South American surf-jazz adventure on Django Reinhardt's yacht with Duane Eddy and four or five Latin percussionists. Cooder is clearly the brains behind this operation. The album is mostly instrumental, and Cooder plays a dizzying array of instruments on it, providing most of the song's melodies with a guitar, organ, or his trademark steel guitar.

Two songs, Monte Adentro and Mambo Sinuendo, feature ethereal, other-worldly vocals (maybe it's just because they're in Spanish) from Juliette and Carla Commagere. The title track also uses a hypnotic, looping trumpet line courtesy of Herb Albert to give the song its amphetamine-fuelled, after-the-sun-goes-down-and-it's-time-to-shake-it salsa-style feel.

The album's rhythm section, consisting of enough members to make a band of its own, thunders along with the force of a typhoon when needed, or slows to that of gentle waves lapping at the beaches of a Mexican islands, during coasting tunes such as Echalle Salsita and Drume Negrita.

Indeed most of the album's ability to be simultaneously meditative and hallucinatory comes as much from the rollin' and tumblin' drums and congas of Cooder's percussion gang, including session-ace Jim Keltner and Cooder's son Joachim, (who also joined him at the Buena Vista Social Club) as it does from Cooder and Galban's echoing, guitar twang.

Mambo Sinuendo provides a much needed reprieve from the winter and all its duress. This is an album that can take you away when your bank account can't.

-Scott Prouse

BIG BEAR
Big Bear's Garbage Can:
Reusing Resources
Deepcave Productions
***/5**

Big Bear hails from south Winnipeg, and with his release of Big Bear's Garbage Can: Reusing Resources, a perfect example of bad Winnipeg rap comes forth. From the introduction, listeners are subjected to horrible reflections, which apparently make Big Bear who he is.

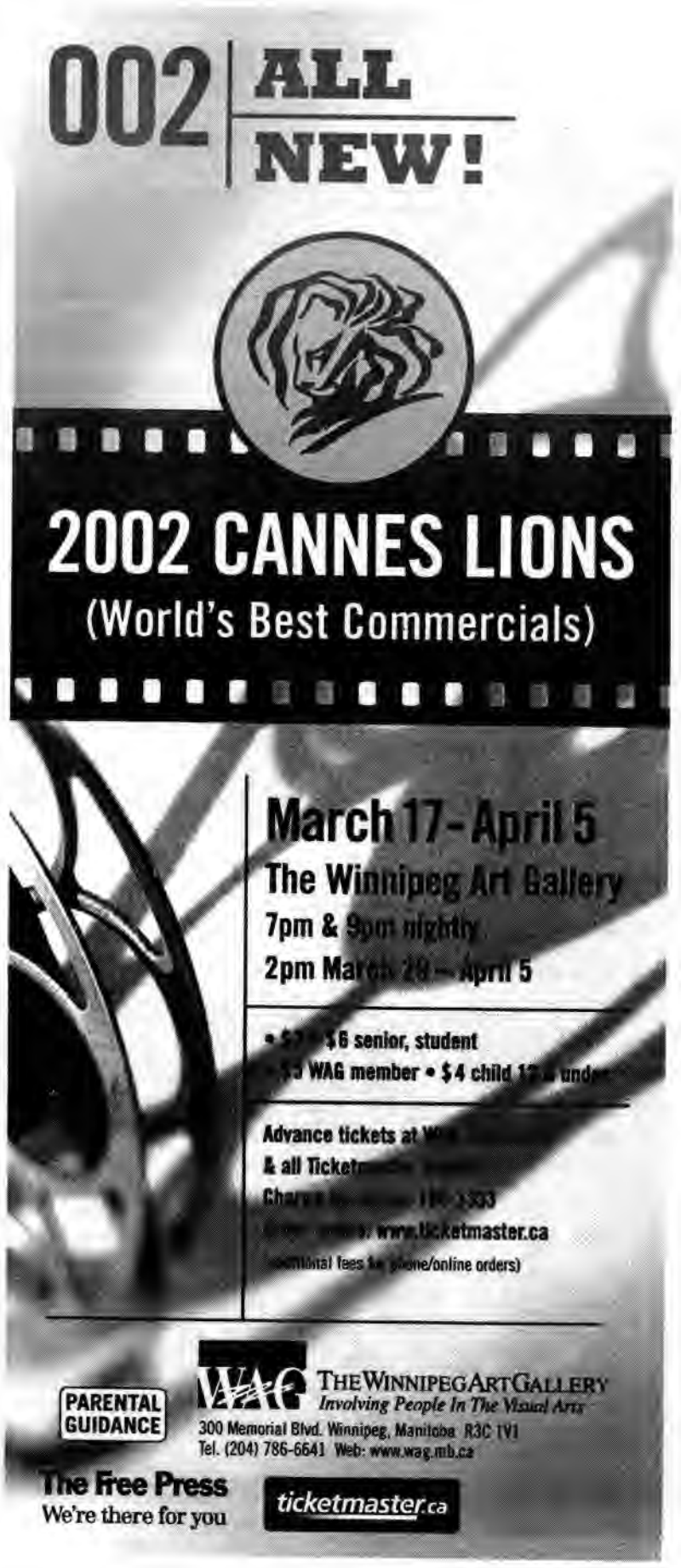
Production for this album comes straight from Big Bear's suburban cave, where inadequate beats help form quite possibly the worst rap album to ever be released in Winnipeg.

Lyrically, Big Bear wears the listener's patience thin with his whiney voice projection. And the content of Big Bear's lyrics provide the listener with minimal visualization on where Big Bear is from.

He claims he's from St. Vital, yet the area that he resides in is not properly represented. Underground artists usually build a platform off the neighborhoods they come from, but for this album the only platform Big Bear makes is rotting in a sea of awful samples and half hearted musical effort.

Big Bear, if you should read this. Please, please, take lessons from Yogi or Smokey the Bear before you ever, ever, make an album again.

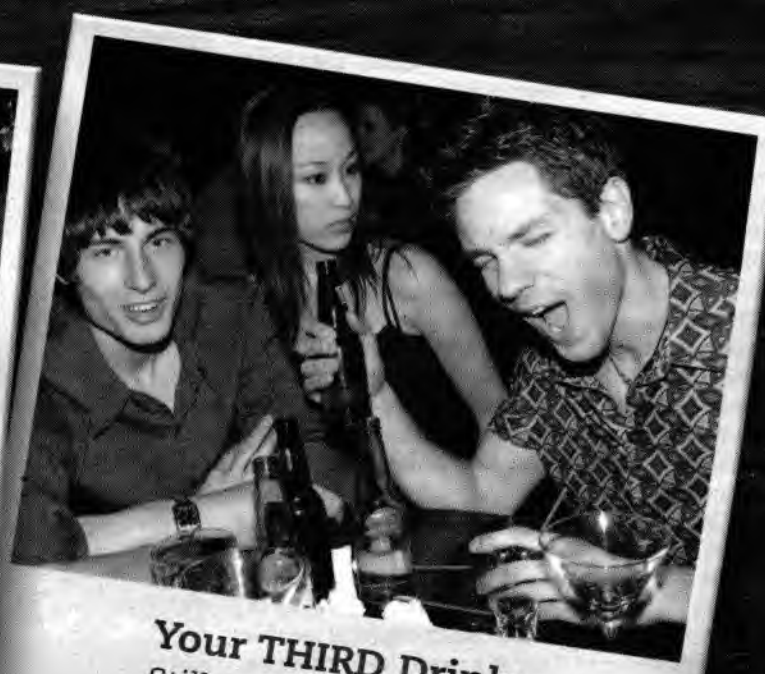
-Jordan Chalifoux



The Night Out.

This is the point when most people stop drinking.

Your FIRST Drink:
All is well.



Your THIRD Drink:
Still social... but maybe you should slow down.

This is the point when others wish they had.

Your SIXTH Drink:
You may be sick, surly and starting to stumble.

YOU'RE NOT HERE.
Where are you? Maybe sick... maybe blacked out... maybe worse.

BE un DRUNK

Next time you're out having a good time and a few drinks, remember... **please drink responsibly.**
Be UnDrunk.

MLCC

The above scenario is only an example. Reactions to blood alcohol levels differ from person to person.